

Application Serial No. 09/633,719
Atty Docket: 00-4012

REMARKS

This Response is filed in reply to the Final Office Action dated August 4, 2004. Claims 1-20 were presented for examination. Claims 1-16 and 18-20 are rejected. Claim 17 is objected to. Claims 1, 6-8, 10 and 20 are amended. Claims 2, 9, 15-17 are canceled. Thus, claims 1, 3-8, 10-14 and 18-20 are pending. Claims 1, 8, 10 and 20 are independent claims.

Silence with regard to any of the Examiner's rejections is not an acquiescence to such rejections. Specifically, silence with regard to Examiner's rejection of a dependent claim, when such claim depends from an independent claim that Applicants consider allowable for reasons provided herein, is not an acquiescence to such rejection of the dependent claim(s), but rather a recognition by Applicants that such previously lodged rejection is moot based on Applicants' remarks and/or amendments relative to the independent claim (that Applicants consider allowable) from which the dependent claim(s) depends. Applicants reserve the option to further prosecute the same or similar claims in the present or a subsequent application. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1, 3-8, 10-14, and 18-20 are pending in the present application.

In this Response, Applicants have amended independent claim 10 to correspond to an independent version of claim 17, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of intervening claim 16. Claims 16 and 17 are cancelled, without prejudice. For consistency, claim 15 is cancelled, without prejudice. Thus, Applicants consider that independent claim 10 is in condition for allowance, as are dependent claims 11-14, 18 and 19 for depending upon an allowable base claim.

In addition, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 8 and 20 to include limitations consistent with claim 17. In particular, amended claim 1 recites, at least in part, *calculating a plurality of possible ports from which the packet is expected to be received using a source network address of the packet, wherein each one of the plurality of possible ports has associated therewith a weight, the weight relating to a likelihood that the packet is received from the one of the plurality of possible ports, and determining*

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an expected port for the packet upon which the packet is expected to be received based on relative weights of the possible ports. Claims 6 and 7 are amended for consistency with claim 1. Claim 2 is cancelled, without prejudice.

Amended claim 8 recites, at least in part, mapping means for calculating a plurality of possible ports from which the packet is expected to be received using a source network address of the packet, wherein each one of the plurality of possible ports has associated therewith a weight, the weight relating to a likelihood that the packet is received from the one of the plurality of possible ports, and first determining means for determining an expected port for the packet based on relative weights of the possible ports. Claim 9 is cancelled, without prejudice.

Amended claim 20 recites, at least in part, a processor configured to generate an expected port table, the expected port table mapping each of a plurality of possible source network addresses to a plurality of possible ports of the switch, whereby a plurality of possible second ports are calculated by using a source network address of the packet, wherein each one of the plurality of possible second ports has associated therewith a weight, the weight relating to a likelihood that the packet is received from the one of the plurality of possible second ports.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants traverse the Examiner's rejections. Based on the Examiner's recognition of the allowable subject matter in claim 17, and the incorporation of the limitations of claim 17 into claims 1, 8 and 20, this amendment places claims 1, 8 and 20 in condition for allowance. Claims 3-7 depend from claim 1 and are allowable at least by dependency.

Applicants respectfully request that the amendments be entered and respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections of the claims remaining in the Application. The remarks herein should in no way be construed to be an acquiescence to any of the rejections. The remarks herein are being made solely to expedite the prosecution of the above-identified application. Applicants reserve the option to further prosecute the same or similar claims in the instant or subsequent patent applications.

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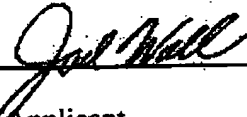
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CONCLUSION

Based on the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims and thus this application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance is requested. If there are any remaining issues or the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (972) 718-4800. Please charge any costs that may be incurred under 37 C.F.R. in connection with this amendment not otherwise accounted-for to Patent Office Deposit Account number 07-2347.

Respectfully submitted,

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